

What is claimed is:

1. An optical disk comprising:

a groove and a land formed on a substrate; and

a recording region formed on the substrate for recording user data,
and

a management region formed on the substrate and provided
adjacent to the recording region including an identification information
region for recording disk-specific identification information,

wherein the identification information region has a flat portion
formed by sectioning part of the groove or the land in a given step.

2. The optical disk according to claim 1,

wherein the flat portion forms a plane having the same height as the
groove adjacent to the land or the land adjacent to the groove.

3. The optical disk according to claim 1,

wherein the flat portion has a width in a perpendicular direction to a
track direction which is wider in a radial direction than a width of the groove
or the land.

4. The optical disk according to claim 1,

wherein the disk-specific identification information is recorded on the
groove or the land including the flat portion.

5. The optical disk according to claim 1,

wherein the disk-specific identification information is recorded in the
identification information region as an irreversible record mark.

6. The optical disk according to claim 1,

wherein the disk-specific identification information includes any one selected from the group consisting of address information, a SYNC code, and an error detection code.

7. The optical disk according to claim 1,

wherein medium type information is recorded in the management region.

8. The optical disk according to claim 7,

wherein the medium type information includes any one selected from the group consisting of a disk type, reflectance, a position of the recording track, a recording layer material, playback power, and recording polarity.

9. A method of playing an optical disk formed by providing a recording region for recording user data and a management region having an identification information region for recording disk-specific identification information on a substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

focusing a laser beam from a light source on the optical disk;

servoing the focused laser beam on a groove or a land;

detecting a signal in the identification information region and a signal of the disk-specific identification information by use of the laser beam being servoed on; and

detecting a change in a signal level of the detected disk-specific identification information based on a predetermined threshold level.

10. The method of playing an optical disk according to claim 9,

wherein the identification information region has a flat portion formed by sectioning part of the groove or the land in a given step.

11. The method of playing an optical disk according to claim 9,

wherein the threshold level is respectively set between each of a signal level of the flat portion and a signal level of the disk-specific identification information, and a signal level of the disk-specific identification information recorded on the groove or the land other than the flat portion.

12. The method of playing an optical disk according to claim 9,

wherein the threshold level is set based on medium type information recorded in advance.

13. The method of playing an optical disk according to claim 9,

wherein a signal of the disk-specific identification information recorded on the groove or the land other than the flat portion is used as a synchronization signal, and

authenticity of the disk-specific identification information is judged.

14. An optical disk drive having an optical head for focusing a laser beam on an optical disk, a playback signal processing circuit for processing a signal detected from the optical disk, a controller, a servo control circuit, and a spindle motor,

wherein the playback signal processing circuit comprises:

a circuit for detecting a change in a signal level of disk-specific identification information recorded on the optical disk based on a predetermined threshold level; and

a circuit for judging authenticity of the disk-specific identification information.

15. The optical disk drive according to claim 14,

wherein the disk-specific identification information is recorded on a management region, which is adjacent to a recording region of the optical

disk for recording user data.

16. The optical disk drive according to claim 14,

wherein the circuit for judging authenticity of the disk-specific identification information executes an operation including any one selected from the group consisting of termination of recording and playback, alarm display, and discharge of the optical disk.